

VOTING SUMMARY

WEST VIRGINIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Number: WVBRC 2024-3

Species: Western Kingbird - Harrison Co.

Reasons voting FOR the record: (*attach more pages if necessary*)

CM1- Excellent photographs of species

CM2- Not a trivial identification to separate vagrant/silent *Tyrannus* flycatchers. The photographs in this case are superb and allow examination of the bill, facial pattern, breast coloration, and tail pattern. All the above allow for confident separation from Tropical, Couch's, and Cassin's.

CM3- The photographs provided for this observation identify the bird as a Western Kingbird. The feeding habits of this bird corresponds with kingbird feeding behavior, where they catch insects on the ground and in the air. Of the four kingbirds that need to be considered, Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds have longer, heavier bills than the bird in the photo and lack outer white tail feathers to eliminate them. Cassin's Kingbird would have a darker head and chest and lacks the outer white tail feathers with a white terminal band on the tail. Thus, the photographic evidence provided supports Western Kingbird.

CM4 - Images and description are consistent for this species.

CM5 - Good description of habitat and bird. Clear photographs in eBird report. Same species reported twice to eBird by experienced birders the same month in nearby areas, although reports were left as unconfirmed. The description and photos rule out Cassin's and Couch's seems very unlikely.

CM6 - A nice writeup and thorough research done regarding this submission. Nice photos confirming a Western Kingbird. White edged outer tail feathers are diagnostic and eliminate other similar *Tyrannus* species.

CM7 - Attached photos confirm the species

- Written descriptions in report were thorough and supportive
- Having recently observing this species here in Berkeley Co., I learned identification features for Western Kingbirds. The photos lend themselves to support what I had learned from my personal observation.